2021 VOYAGES

NEW ZEALAND

AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

› New Zealand’s East Coast
› Expedition to the Albatross Latitudes
› South Coast to Fiordland
› Battlefields & Beaches of the Solomon Islands
Voyages to the South Pacific and New Zealand bring to mind awe-inspiring landscapes, fascinating Melanesian and Maori culture, and an abundance of unique wildlife. With over 7,000km of rugged coastline to be explored, New Zealand is perfect for expedition cruising. By small ship, leave the crowds behind as you explore sheltered inlets inaccessible to larger ships, cruise deep glacial fiords, walk forested trails to spot birdlife, and experience the history, food, and wine of the wonderful East Coast.

The new Coral Geographer will also journey to the far-flung Subantarctic Islands of Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes, and Bounty. These islands, World-Heritage protected, take us back in time to destinations where humans have had little impact. Colourful megaherb pastures, mysterious albatross colonies, and coastlines inhabited by sea lions and penguins are amongst the attractions that await intrepid explorers.

Journey far from the ordinary on these small ship voyages.

Expedition Note
These are expedition itineraries covering remote regions. Your Expedition Team will make changes to the daily schedule when necessary to maximise your experience. Some variation to indicative itineraries may occur due to weather conditions, safety or local community requirements.

INCLUSIONS
- All excursions and sightseeing
- Use of Xplorer, Zodiads and kayaks
- Daily lectures and briefings
- All meals, chef-prepared on board
- Selected wines, selected beers, selected spirits, juices, and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner
- Coffee and selection of teas
- All entrance fees to National Parks and Ports
- Choice of local operator excursions at some locations
- Tips and gratuities

WINE SELECTIONS
We offer two wine selections, which guests may purchase in addition to our house selection, that feature hand-selected Australian and New Zealand wines, and French champagne.
- A Taste of New Zealand Selection: with seven bottles featuring one Sparkling, two Whites, three Reds and a Rosé at $285.00
- Connoisseur Selection: with six bottles featuring one French champagne, two Whites and three Reds at $355.00

See our website for more detail.
Australian Hospitality at Sea

On board, you will discover a personalised style of cruising. With a maximum of 120 guests, there is no need for queues, waiting, or assigned seating. Instead, an intimate, convivial atmosphere shared with other like-minded travellers makes you feel at home.

Our Australian and New Zealand crew share their passion for our destinations and the explorer’s life. Join our engine room tours, watch our chefs at work in the open galley, and chat with our Captain or officers on the bridge – they will be delighted to have your company.

Our chefs, inspired by destination flavours, prepare cuisine from fresh regional produce. Our wine cellars hold a curated selection of New Zealand wines, beers and ciders.

Our guests love to mingle over drinks as the sun sets, enjoy daily educational presentations by our lecturers, participate in stargazing sessions after dark, or simply find a quiet corner on deck and enjoy the solitude.

The Expedition Experience

We explore remote locations that are hard to reach or not often touched by tourists, with shore excursions that promote environmental and cultural appreciation. Our small group sizes ensure that your experience is personal, with minimal impact on the communities and environments we visit.

Enjoy excursions or activities each day, guided by expert Expedition Leaders and lecturers who provide commentary on culture, history, and the region’s unique geology, plants and wildlife to help you connect with these special places.

Our ships are built for environmentally responsible small-ship cruising, with refined navigation and nimble Xplorer tenders to bring you close to remote coastlines.

Our SailSAFE Plan

It is our priority to keep our guests and crew safe while travelling with us, and our SailSAFE Plan will ensure we operate responsibly in the new environment that COVID-19 has created.

Remote, nature-based expeditions with Australian and New Zealand crew, and small groups less than 120 guests provides a lower-risk environment. The addition of our approved SailSAFE COVID response plan, as well as our thorough pre-cruise testing model, create additional confidence when sailing with us.

We have partnered with Respond Global, a specialist medical advisory agency, to assist us in developing these protocols that are among the most thorough in the world.

With a focus on prevention, to target a 100% COVID free environment when we set sail, we have a three-tiered medical screening system in place before boarding. This prevention protocol is supported by onboard mitigation actions and a thorough and compassionate response plan.

Read more:
In the Marlborough Sounds, enjoy a New Year’s Eve feast anchored at historic Ship Cove, featuring produce and wine from the Marlborough region.

Walk through the lush Waimangu Volcanic Valley, the world’s youngest geothermal valley.

Enjoy walks at Marlborough Sounds and Stewart Island, with spectacular views and birdwatching opportunities.

Experience the vibrant energy and stories of Maori culture, with a Kapa Haka and greeting at Hauiti Marae.

Discover the unique character of east coast towns, from the French-influenced Akaroa to Dunedin’s Scottish heritage and Napier’s distinctive art deco architecture.

Explore three of Fiordland’s most beautiful sounds including the iconic Milford Sound and the largely inaccessible Dusky and Doubtful Sounds.

Encounter many species of endemic birds and marine wildlife, including the Fiordland crested penguin, New Zealand fur seal, the sperm whale, and the dusky dolphin.

Taste the renowned wines produced in the Hawke’s Bay and Marlborough regions on our New Zealand wine list.

**Expedition Highlights**

- In the Marlborough Sounds, enjoy a New Year’s Eve feast anchored at historic Ship Cove, featuring produce and wine from the Marlborough region.
- Walk through the lush Waimangu Volcanic Valley, the world’s youngest geothermal valley.
- Enjoy walks at Marlborough Sounds and Stewart Island, with spectacular views and birdwatching opportunities.
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**DEPARTURE & FARES**

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DAY 1: DEPART AUCKLAND
Board Coral Geographer in Queen’s Wharf, Auckland Harbour at 4:00 pm for a 5:00 pm departure. Enjoy Captain’s Welcome Drinks this evening.

DAY 2: TAURANGA & WAIMANGU
A coach journey takes us to Waimangu, the world’s youngest volcanic valley. Marvel at the gaping volcanic craters, hot water springs and mysterious Inferno Crater. Later, we may have time to stroll through the town of Tauranga.

DAY 3: GISBORNE
Maori traditions record Gisborne as the place where the first Maori canoe landed and Captain Cook first came ashore. At Tolaga Bay, we will be met at the Hauiti Marae with a traditional Maori welcome and a Kapa Haka cultural show, before a guided viewing of the carved marae. Later, visit the historic Tolaga Bay wharf.

DAY 4: NAPIER
In 1931 Napier was destroyed by an earthquake, and the rebuilding created the world’s greatest collection of art deco architecture, surrounded by the award-winning wineries of Hawke’s Bay. Two tour options are available: a city tour to discover the architecture and history of the city, finishing with a flight of wines at New Zealand’s oldest winery; or an excursion to the world’s largest mainland gannet colony at Cape Kidnappers, with spectacular coastline views.

DAY 5 & 6: MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS
The ancient river valleys that form the Marlborough Sounds are surrounded by forest-cloaked peaks and vineyards. After cruising Cook Strait, ring in the New Year with a feast of local fare and world-class dining. Explore Queen Charlotte Sound to spot wildlife, and birdwatch at Motuara Island sanctuary. Later, hike a section of the Queen Charlotte Track and learn of Captain Cook’s time here, before a final scenic cruise through the sounds.

DAY 7: KAIKOURA
Ringed by snow-dusted ranges, the picturesque town of Kaikoura is one of the few places to observe the Sperm Whale. Aboard a specialised boat, search for these amazing mammals. Later, visit the museum and gallery, before joining a guided walk on the beautiful peninsula.

DAY 8: AKAROA
Once a busy whaling outpost, Akaroa was the only French settlement in New Zealand. Here, choose between two included excursions: a harbour cruise to spot marine wildlife, or a visit to a traditional farm operated by 7th generation descendants of French settlers. Later, explore the village and taste French-inspired cuisine, or walk to Newton’s Waterfall with our Expedition Team.

DAY 9: DUNEDIN
The Otago Peninsula is an area of exceptional diversity, and we will be welcomed with sights of the world’s only mainland breeding colony of northern royal albatross and a colony of the rare yellow-eyed penguin. There will be a choice of included excursions with local operators - choose between a coach tour of the Otago Peninsula’s most scenic beaches and Dunedin’s highlights, or a railway journey through the rugged Taieri River Gorge. Or take time to explore the city at your leisure: perhaps visit the famous Speight’s Brewery, art gallery, or New Zealand’s oldest botanic gardens.

DAY 10: STEWART & ULVA ISLANDS
Known in Maori mythology as Te Punga o Te Waka – ‘The Anchor Stone of Maui’s Canoe’ - Stewart Island (Rakiura) is New Zealand’s little-visited ‘third island’. On Ulva Island, a sanctuary for rare and endangered birds, take a guided walk to spot birdlife, including the Rifleman, Weka, and Kereru. Explore the village of Oban, and cruise to Prices Point Whaling Station by Xplorer to learn the region’s history.

DAY 11-12: FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK
Fiordland National Park is part of UNESCO World Heritage listed Southland. Carved by ancient glaciers, the fiords’ sheer cliffs and steep ridges are cloaked with rainforest and cascading waterfalls. These mostly inaccessible and awe-inspiring landscapes were the mysterious source of powerful pounamu (New Zealand jade), gathered by Maori from secret riverbeds.

Enter Fiordland National Park at dramatic Tamatea / Dusky Sound, and cruise among towering cliffs and sheet granite walls to explore the depths of the inlets in the zodiac, spotting Fiordland Penguins and fur seals. Early in the morning, a dawn cruise traces Acheron Passage to Te Puiwhaka / Breaksea Sound, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes on all sides as we retrace Cook’s journey. Enter Doubtful Sound / Patea, the deepest and widest fiord. The stillness and silence here is compelling and unforgettable. Cruise past the outer Seal Islands, Nee Islets and through ‘the Gut’, before entering Te Awa-o-Tu / Thompson Sound.

This afternoon, enter Milford Sound / Piopiotahi to a world-famous view of Mitre Peak, opposite beautiful Stirling Falls. You may have a chance to feel the spray from the waterfall - according to Maori legend it will make you ten years younger! Cruise to Harrison Cove, where an ancient glacier entered the fiord, and visit Bowen Falls.

DAY 13: MILFORD SOUND
Disembark at 8:00 am before transferring by coach to Queenstown. Your coach arrives in Queenstown at 1:30 pm.
Explore the stillness of Dusky and Doubtful Sounds in Fiordland, and encounter many species of wildlife.

Stroll through the forests of Ulva Island to spot birdlife, including the weka, rifleman, kaka, and kereru.

Discover New Zealand’s Subantarctic UNESCO World Heritage islands, including the Snares, Auckland Islands, Campbell Islands, Antipodes and Bounty Islands.

Spot incredibly rare birdlife, including the yellow-eyed, rockhopper, and erect-crested penguins, northern giant petrel, Red-crowned parakeet, and 10 species of albatross, in some of the world’s most precious and wild habitats.

Climb through the red-flowering rata and ethereal megaherb pastures on the Auckland Islands to take in a view over the misty seascape of the Southern Ocean.

Learn about the history of Campbell Island and visit the ‘world’s loneliest tree’.

Spend two days on Chatham Islands to meet the locals and learn the history of the Moriori people, surrounded by one of the most remote environments on earth.

**Expedition Highlights**

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**DEPARTURE & FADES**

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*Limited sole use occupancy available.

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**IMAGES**

1. Albatross, Campbell Island | 2. Sea Lion, credit Tourism New Zealand
3. Explore remote beaches to spot wildlife | 4. Tangled Rata forest
DAYS 2-14: Your Expedition Team may make changes to the itinerary in order to maximise your expeditionary experience. Below are the key destinations we visit. This itinerary includes 3 days at sea.

DOUBTFUL SOUND & DUSKY SOUND
Fiordland National Park, a World Heritage site once described as the Eighth Wonder of the World, is characterised by 14 fiords carving through just 215km of coastline. This morning, we enter dramatic Tamatea / Dusky Sound to cruise past the towering cliffs and sheet granite walls of Facile Harbour, and explore the sheltered inlets by zodiac. Doubtful Sound / Patea is flanked by towering cliffs and adorned by cascading waterfalls. The stillness and silence of this fiord is compelling and unforgettable, especially in the afternoon light. You may spot lounging fur seals, dolphins, and the Fiordland penguin.

STEWART ISLAND / RAKIURA
Known in Maori mythology as Te Punga o Te Waka - ‘The Anchor Stone of Maui’s Canoe’ - Stewart Island is New Zealand’s little-visited ‘third island’. On Ulva Island, take a guided walk to spot rare birdlife, including the Rifleman, Weka, and Kereru. Explore the village of Oban, and cruise to Prices Point Whaling Station to learn the region’s history.

SNARES ISLANDS / TINI HEKE
This morning, sail into your first Sub-Antarctic anchorage at the Snares Islands. The most pristine place in New Zealand, the islands are protected as part of the Subantarctic Islands World Heritage Site and landing ashore is prohibited. We may cruise along the sheltered eastern side of the island to observe unique megaherbs and the many bird species which nest here, including the Snares Penguin, sooty shearwater, and Buller’s Albatross.

AUCKLAND ISLANDS / MOTU MAHA
360 kilometres south of Stewart Island, the Auckland Islands are known for their towering mountains and slopes blooming with southern rata and megaherbs. We will go ashore at Enderby Island to spot many of the unique birds that nest here, including the Southern Royal Albatross, northern giant petrel, and yellow-eyed penguin. On Auckland Island, explore the remains of Hardwicke Settlement, abandoned in the early 1800s, and climb the slopes to observe the shy albatross colony and take in the view. Later, cruise by zodiac through the sheltered inlets of Carnley Harbour and spot rare sea lions, or visit another historic site on the island.

CAMPBELL ISLAND / MOTU IHUPUKU
Campbell Island is New Zealand’s most southern island. Over many years it was the location for sealing, whaling, and farming endeavours, but was declared a nature reserve in 1954. Go ashore at Perseverance Harbour, the location at the now automated meteorological station, to observe the otherworldly flora display of megaherbs, including the Campbell Island daisy, the Silver Leaf Daisy and the Campbell Island Carrot. Walk carefully along the protected pathways to spot some of the six species of albatross that breed here, as well as rare yellow-eyed penguins and many other birds, and visit the ‘world’s loneliest tree’, a Sitka Spruce over 100 years old.

ANTIPODES ISLANDS
The Antipodes Island group, volcanic and uninhabited, are part of the New Zealand Subantarctic World Heritage site. The steep and rocky islands are recognised as an Important Bird Area. We may spot the southern rockhopper and erect-crested penguins, albatrosses, petrels, and the Antipodes snipe, pipit and parakeet. The islands are surrounded by basalt cliffs emerging from the sea, hollowed by sea caves, and blanketed by mist. Here, we will cruise the coastline to spot birds and admire the landscape of tussock grass, shield fern and megaherbs.

BOUNTY ISLANDS
This tiny group of 13 uninhabited granite islets were discovered by Captain Bligh aboard the HMS Bounty in 1788. These bleak islands are bounded by the Moutere Hauriri Marine Reserve, and they provide a refuge for over 20,000 New Zealand fur seals, and 30,000 pairs of Salvin’s mollymawks as well as erect-crested penguins, fulmar prion, and Bounty Island Shag. We are unable to go ashore here, as the islands are highly protected, but if weather permits, we will cruise the shorelines to spot birds and other wildlife.

CHATHAM ISLANDS
The Chatham Islands, a territory of New Zealand, have sustained human settlement for centuries. For over 400 years, the original Moriori settlers were isolated from the outside world. Over two days, explore these islands and meet the local people. On tender cruises around Mangere Island and Pyramid Rock, look for endemic species such as the Forbes’ parakeet, Chatham Island Shag, and perhaps the critically endangered Taiko and Black Robin. Visit the main settlement of Waitangi, and learn about Moriori and European history at Pitt Island.

DAY 15: ARRIVE WELLINGTON
This morning, we arrive Wellington to disembark at 8:00am.
Explore Queen Charlotte Sound to discover the history of Ship Cove, and walk a section of the Queen Charlotte Track.

Discover the unique character of east coast towns, from the French-influenced Akaroa to Dunedin’s Scottish heritage and Kaikoura’s seaside village charm.

Encounter many species of endemic birds and marine wildlife, including the Fiordland crested penguin and New Zealand fur seal in Southland.

Discover the Otago Peninsula’s scenic beaches, and explore the city of Dunedin at your leisure.

Spend two days exploring Rakiura (Stewart Island), enjoy opportunities for endemic birdwatching and hike a section of the Rakiura Track.

Explore the quiet grandeur of three of Fiordland’s most beautiful sounds - the astonishing Dusky and Doubtful Sounds, and iconic Milford Sound.

**Expedition Highlights**

**DEPARTURE & FARES**

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**IMAGES**

1. Milford Sound, credit Bernard Spragg
2. Royal Albatross, Dunedin, credit Tourism New Zealand
3. Kayaking, Dusky Sound
4. Whale-watching, Kaikoura, credit Miles Holden
DAY 1 - 2: WELLINGTON & MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS
Board Coral Geographer in Wellington at 7:30 am for a 9:00 am departure. Cruise the Cook Strait, and this afternoon, explore the spectacular Marlborough Sounds before Captain’s Welcome Drinks this evening.

The flooded river valleys of the Marlborough Sounds are surrounded by forest-cloaked peaks and vineyards, all of which present a breathtaking view from any perspective. Here, we cruise the fiord-like Queen Charlotte Sound (Totaranui). Follow the path of Captain Cook’s exploratory voyages, including a stop at Cook’s favourite New Zealand base, Ship Cove, where he spent a total of 120 days. Discover the dolphins and seals of the sounds with marine spotting from the Xplorer and enjoy wonderful birdwatching on walks through Motuara Island birdlife sanctuary. Guided by our expedition team and lecturers, there will be options to hike a section of the spectacular Queen Charlotte Track, or shorter walks available. The history of the region is also brought to life with our visit to Ship Cove.

DAY 3: KAIKOURA
Ringed by the breathtaking snow-dusted Seaward Kaikoura Ranges, the picturesque town of Kaikoura is known as possibly the best whale watching destination in the world. Kaikoura is one of the very few places it is possible to observe the Sperm Whale! Aboard a small specialised vessel, we will explore the ocean in search of these amazing mammals, as well as fur seals, dusky and Hector’s dolphins and other migratory whales. Later, visit the museum and gallery, before joining a guided walk on the beautiful peninsula.

DAY 4: AKAROA
This morning, sail into the long harbour of Akaroa, formed by the breached volcanic crater that makes up the Banks Peninsula. The village of Akaroa has the unique identity of being the only French settlement in New Zealand, and its charming cottages and French street names still carry that identity today. Here, choose between two included excursions: a harbour cruise to spot marine wildlife, or a visit to a traditional farm operated by 7th generation descendants of French settlers. Later, explore the village and taste French-inspired cuisine, or walk to Newton’s Waterfall with our Expedition Team.

DAY 5: DUNEDIN
The Otago Peninsula is an area of exceptional diversity, and we will be welcomed with sights of the world’s only mainland breeding colony of northern royal albatross and a colony of the rare yellow-eyed penguin. There will be a choice of included excursions with local operators – a coach tour of the Otago Peninsula’s most scenic beaches and Dunedin’s highlights, or a railway journey through the rugged Taieri River Gorge. There may be time to explore the city at your own leisure: perhaps visit the famous Speight’s Brewery, art gallery, and New Zealand’s oldest botanic gardens.

DAY 6-7: STEWART & ULVA ISLANDS
Known in Maori mythology as Te Punga o Te Waka – ‘The Anchor Stone of Maui’s Canoe’ - Stewart Island (Rakiura) is New Zealand’s little-visited ‘third island’. On Ulva Island, a sanctuary for rare and endangered birds, take a guided walk to spot birdlife, including the South Island Saddleback, Kakapo, Weka, and Kiwi. You may also spot a few fur seals lazing on the shore. Enjoy free time to explore the village of Oban, and cruise to Prices Point Whaling Station by Xplorer to learn the history of the region. For the fit, there will be an opportunity to walk a section of the Iconic Rakiura Track.

DAY 8: FIORDLAND: DUSKY, DOUBTFUL, BREAKSEA SOUNDS
Fiordland National Park is part of UNESCO World Heritage listed Southland. Carved by ancient glaciers, the fiords’ sheer cliffs and steep ridges are cloaked with rainforest and cascading waterfalls. These mostly inaccessible and awe-inspiring landscapes were the mysterious source of powerful pounamu (New Zealand jade), gathered by Maori from secret riverbeds. Enter Fiordland National Park at dramatic Tamatea / Dusky Sound, and cruise among towering cliffs and sheer granite walls to explore the depths of the inlets in the zodiac, spotting Fiordland Penguins and fur seals. Later, trace Acheron Passage to Te Puaataha / Breaksea Sound, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes on all sides as we retrace Cook’s journey. Enter Doubtful Sound / Patea, the deepest and widest fiord. The stillness and silence here is compelling and unforgettable. Cruise past the outer Seal Islands, Neel Islets and through ‘the Gut’.

DAY 9: MILFORD SOUND
This morning at dawn, we enter Milford Sound / Piopiotahi to a world-famous view of Mitre Peak. Its triangular silhouette rises opposite Stirling Falls. You may have a chance to feel the spray from the waterfall – according to Maori legend it will make you ten years younger! Cruise to Harrison Cove and visit Bowen Falls before disembarking.

Disembark at 10:00 am before transferring by coach to Queenstown. The coach arrives in Queenstown at approximately 3:30 pm.

ITINERARY: 8 NIGHTS WELLINGTON TO MILFORD
Snorkel and dive almost every day over vivid coral gardens and relax on white-sand beaches.

Enjoy enriching local culture at the remote island villages of Star Harbour and Nendo, and visit local markets.

Journey up the slopes of Mt Yasur on Tanna Island, guided by the locals to gaze into the heart of the volcano.

Spot numerous species of birds and marine life at the important conservation areas of Arnavon Island.

Visit historic WWII wrecks and significant sites such as the sunken SS President Coolidge at Million Dollar Point, Kennedy Island, Iron Bottom Sound, and Tulagi.

Sail into Ureparapara’s spectacular volcanic cone, and be warmly welcomed with dances and a performance of the extraordinary ‘water music’.

Cruise Iron Bottom Sound and pause to pay tribute to lost seamen at wreck sites like the HMAS Canberra.

Enjoy insightful commentary and lectures by special guest lecturer and wartime historian Allan du Toit.

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**Expedition Highlights**

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**IMAGES**

1 Local children playing on the beach | 2 Child, Nendo | 3 Driving up the slopes of Mt Yasur, Tanna | 4 Xplorer arriving, Vanuatu | 5 Diving over coral reefs
DAY 1: DEPART HONIARA
An optional pre-cruise tour includes the Memorial at Skyline Ridge, the site of the Battle of Edson's Ridge and others (additional cost). Board Coral Geographer at 4:00pm for a 5:00pm departure.

DAY 2: MANGALONGA & SAVO IS
At Mangalonga Island, go ashore for an early morning birdwatching excursion to spot colourful endemic species. We will also dive and snorkel nearby Popondaka Reef, known for prolific fish life and colourful coral. Later, cruise Iron Bottom Sound, and pause to pay tribute to the HMAS Canberra which sunk here in the Battle of Savo Island in 1942.

DAY 3: MAROVO LAGOON
One of the world’s natural wonders, this double barrier lagoon has been proposed for World Heritage listing and has significant WWII history. Snorkel and dive amongst tropical fish, and meet the Marovo carvers, known for intricate carvings in ebony, rosewood and mother-of-pearl.

DAY 4: GHIZO & KENNEDY ISLAND
This morning, go ashore in the provincial town of Gizo to wander through the vibrant open-air markets. Later, pass Kennedy Island, where John F. Kennedy and his crew came ashore after their patrol boat was sunk. This afternoon, snorkel or dive at Njari Reef - a marvellous underwater world considered to be the best snorkelling location in the Solomons.

DAY 5: ARNAVON ISLANDS
This marine reserve is home to the largest rookery of endangered Hawksbill Turtles in the South Pacific, and supports some of the healthiest coral reefs. Protected by the Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area. Go ashore at Kerehikapa Island with the chance to see turtle hatchlings emerging from their nests. Later, cruise Dart Sound to visit the remote village of Kia, where many of the conservation rangers live, for dancing and singing.

DAY 6: TULAGI & MBOLI
The old capital of the Solomons, Tulagi is filled with wartime history. Be welcomed by a traditional Solomon Islands warrior welcome, followed by music and dance performances and a guided walking tour. This afternoon cruise Mboli Passage: a narrow waterway where Allied warships replenished water supplies.

DAY 7: MARAU SOUND
At the tip of Guadalcanal, this area of verdant tropical islands separates Guadalcanal’s calm northern waters from its Tasi Mauri or ‘weather coast’. This special place is protected by five marine reserves. Visit the local village with an opportunity to purchase handmade local craft, before spending the afternoon snorkelling and kayaking the lagoon.

DAY 8: SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND
Be welcomed by the locals of Star Harbour this morning. Enjoy a colourful cultural performance before exploring the village, meet the children at the local school and learn about the harbour’s WWII history.

DAY 9: NENDO
Our last stop in the Solomon Islands, Nendo Island is an excellent location to view and purchase quality artefacts. Enjoy a cultural performance and an opportunity to snorkel from the beach.

DAY 10: UREPARAPARA, VANUATU
One of the most spectacular islands in the South Pacific, Ureparapara is an extinct volcano rising 764m above sea level. Cruising into the cone of the volcano, surrounded on three sides by towering ridges, is an unforgettable experience. Be welcomed by cultural performances, including ‘water music’ a percussive, hypnotic music created by slapping and moving the water, accompanied by the women’s vocal harmonies. Meet the friendly locals and explore the village.

DAY 11: MILLION DOLLAR POINT
Luganville, the site of a WWII Allied base, is surrounded by extraordinary dive sites. One of these is Million Dollar Point, named for the thousands of tons of war machinery that were dumped here. SS President Coolidge, an ex-luxury liner, is also a significant shipwreck here. Sailing into a minefield, she ran aground on the beach before capsizing. A very special shipwreck, it is considered by many to be the best wreck dive in the world.

DAY 12: NGUNA
Nguna Island, fringed by white sand beaches, is surrounded by the Nguna-Pele Marine Protected area – home to coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove forests and inter-tidal lagoons. Two extinct volcanoes provide opportunities for fascinating hikes, and the island’s coral gardens provide a stunning environment for snorkelling and diving. We may also have an opportunity to visit the village.

DAY 13: TANNA
This morning, spot the first signs of volcanic activity, hot springs bubbling beneath the surface, as we approach Tanna. A real once-in-a-lifetime experience, we are welcomed ashore, and driven local-style in the back of trucks up through the forest to the lower reaches of Mt Yasur’s active volcano. Continue on foot to the rim of the caldera, and peer into the heart of the volcano and its lava pools. Return to the village to spend time with the locals and learn about their interesting customs.

DAY 14: ARRIVE PORT VILA
Arrive in Port Vila at 7:00am to disembark at 8:00am.
Coral Geographer

The sister ship of Coral Adventurer, Coral Geographer features the same advanced technologies and environmentally-responsible design. Coral Geographer is built for environmentally responsible small-ship cruising, with refined navigation and nimble Xplorer tenders to bring you close to remote coastlines. Carrying a maximum of 120 guests, her intimate atmosphere and warm Australian hospitality quickly make you feel at home. Six suites, 26 balcony staterooms and expansive deck spaces provide an authentic expedition experience. All staterooms are outside facing and many have private balconies. Spacious lounge areas, communal dining, and open decks with panoramic views provide relaxation and the opportunity to spend time with old and new friends.
FEATURES

- Two Xplorer tender & six Zodiacs
- Open Bridge with Navigator Lounge
- Single seat dining
- Three cocktail bars
- Well-equipped gym
- Passenger elevator
- Anchor-free technology

IMAGES • 1 Bridge Deck Suite | 2 Bridge Deck Suite bathroom | 3 Explorer Deck Stateroom | 4 Chef carving roast at dinner | 5 Boarding the Xplorer | 6 Sunset drinks at the Bridge Deck Bar
Contact us today or speak with your travel agent.

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